

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace, without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A lane assist system for a motor vehicle, comprising:
a surround sensor device, which is mounted on the vehicle, for detecting a lane of the vehicle; and

a device for alerting a driver of the vehicle in the event that the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to depart the lane and (b) actually departs the lane, the device being adapted to cause a vibration, noticeable to the driver, in a driver seat on a side of a seating surface on which a lane departure at least one of (a) threatens and (b) is taking place;

wherein:

the surround sensor device includes a sensor for detecting vehicles approaching from a rear; [[and]]

if it is detected, during a change to a new lane, that a vehicle is rapidly approaching from the rear on the new lane, the lane assist system outputs a warning;

the surround sensor device includes a sensor for detecting a roadway edge; and
in the event that the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to cross the roadway edge and (b) actually crosses the roadway edge, the lane assist system is configured to automatically intervene in a steering system of the vehicle.

9. (Previously Presented) The lane assist system according to claim 8, wherein the device outputs control signals for a vibration device which cause the vibration in the driver seat.

10. (Previously Presented) The lane assist system according to claim 8, wherein the vibration is produced by a vibration device which is adapted to be activated separately for the left and the right side.

11. (Previously Presented) The lane assist system according to claim 9, wherein the vibration device is integrated into the driver seat in such a way that the vibration is noticeable on the seating surface of the seat.

12. (Previously Presented) The lane assist system according to claim 8, further comprising a secondary warning device for outputting at least one of a visual and an acoustic warning signal.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a lane assist system for a motor vehicle, the method comprising:

detecting whether a vehicle is rapidly approaching from a rear; ~~and~~

generating a warning for a driver of the vehicle if it is detected, during a change to a new lane, that a vehicle is rapidly approaching from the rear on the new lane, wherein generating the warning includes generating a vibration, noticeable to the driver, in a driver seat on a side of a seating surface corresponding to a direction of the change to the new lane; detecting a roadway edge; and

intervening automatically in a steering system of the vehicle in the event that the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to cross the roadway edge and (b) actually crosses the roadway edge.

15. (Previously Presented) The lane assist system according to claim 8, wherein the device for alerting the driver causes a vibration, on a side of the seating surface corresponding to a direction of the change to the new lane, as the warning.

16. (Currently Amended) A lane assist system for a motor vehicle, comprising:
a surround sensor device, which is mounted on the vehicle, for detecting a lane of the vehicle;

a first alerting device for alerting a driver of the vehicle in the event that the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to depart the lane and (b) actually departs the lane, the first alerting device being adapted to cause a vibration, noticeable to the driver, in a driver seat on a side of a seating surface on which a lane departure at least one of (a) threatens and (b) is taking place; and

a second alerting device adapted to output ~~at least one of an acoustic and~~ a visual warning signal conditional upon a determination that the vibration has been ignored.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a lane assist system for a motor vehicle, the method comprising:

detecting a lane of the vehicle;

determining whether the vehicle threatens to dangerously depart the lane;

generating a warning for a driver of the vehicle when the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to depart the lane and (b) actually departs the lane, wherein generating the warning includes generating a vibration, noticeable to the driver, in a driver seat on a side of a seating surface on which a lane departure at least one of (a) threatens and (b) actually takes place; and

conditional upon a determination that the vibration has been ignored, outputting ~~at least one of an acoustic and~~ a visual warning signal.

18. (New) The lane assist system according to claim 16, wherein the first alerting device is adapted to output an acoustic signal simultaneously with the vibration.